

The Maryland Numismatist



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Henrietta Szold
Baltimore Native "of Note"

Spring, 2009 Volume 37 – No. 1

**The
Maryland
State
Numismatic
Association,
Inc.**



The *MARYLAND NUMISMATIST* is the quarterly publication of MSNA and is distributed to all members in good standing without additional cost.

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President's Message

In my last message I indicated that we had asked Whitman for space to hold a Distinguished Lecture and also to have an Exhibits area at the Summer Whitman Show at the Baltimore Convention Center. I am happy to report that we have received a favorable response. At the last MSNA meeting, Larry Goldman agreed to chair the effort to arrange for the Lecture and Bryce will handle the Exhibits initiative. These efforts mark a turning point in the MSNA's efforts to promote the Hobby and they should resurrect the image of the MSNA after several less-than-successful MSNA coin shows. Please give any assistance these gentlemen might ask for to help ensure that the efforts are successful.



Tom Palmer who is enjoying retirement in the Sunshine State has decided to throw his hat in the ring for ANA Governor. The MSNA is supporting his nomination and we wish him success in this endeavor.

Bob Ruby is now devoting his efforts to the Westminster Fire Department. Bob always had a lot of energy and did many duties for the MSNA and the other clubs that he belonged to, despite not being a collector himself. We wish Bob the best in his work with the WFD. With his work ethic he is probably doing the work of three or four other volunteers!

On a related subject, I want to express my appreciation to Simcha Kuritzky for agreeing to take the helm of the Maryland Numismatist and for the planning effort he has already expended. As a result of Simcha's research, we can look forward to an improved product at a reduced cost.



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Editor's Introduction

I don't know if I'll be writing a message each quarter, but since this is my first time as editor, I thought I'd introduce myself. Many of you may remember me as the MSNA president (2006-7). I also serve as the accountant, preparing our statements for the IRS. I have been the treasurer of the Montgomery County Coin Club since 1986 (although before that I was vice president), and I've been vice president of the Washington Numismatic Society for several years as well (I even convinced them to join MSNA).



I have been a published author in numismatics since age 14, and a member of the Numismatics Literary Guild since 16. Several of my articles have won awards from the ANA and NLG. I also author two monthly columns in federal accounting newsletters. My collecting specialties are felines, amulets, and Judaica. I regularly exhibit at the ANA conventions. For the past couple of years, I have researched zodiac-themed medals, and have started a regular column here on the results. As a CPA who specializes in non-profit organizations, I have wanted to write a how-to manual on club accounting, and will take this opportunity to start a column on that as well, figuring that a significant percentage of our members are clubs and their officers.

However, it is not my intention to monopolize the content of the *Maryland Numismatist*. I have received permission from the Board to restart the prize for best article (which I won in 2003). Starting with the December, 2009 issue, the best article authored by someone other than the editor (as judged by three Board members) will win \$50 in gift certificates to be redeemed at the November Whitman show in Baltimore. The award will only be given if at least three people submit articles they wrote, so encourage others to participate. I'd especially like some items related to Maryland, as that is not my area of expertise and I know there are local collectors.

Planned for upcoming issues:

Summer 2009 — A pair of bilingual elongated coins from Maryland

Autumn 2009 — Celebrating Montgomery County Coin Club's golden anniversary

\$50 Prize Money Offered for Best Article

Write an article for the Maryland Numismatist and be in the running to win \$50 in gift certificates redeemable at the November, 2010 Whitman show in Baltimore. There must be at least three authors who are published in the Winter 2009 or Spring – Autumn 2010 issues, excluding the editor, who is not eligible. All articles (even multiples by the same author) will be entered automatically, and will be judged for quality by a panel chosen by the MSNA board.

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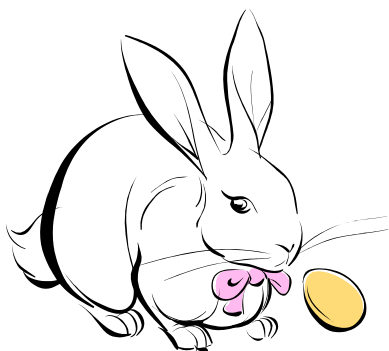
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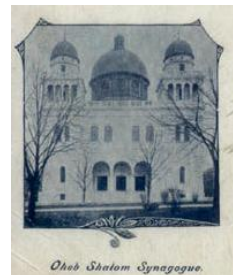
by Simcha Kuritzky, NLG

In 1960, the State of Israel chose to numismatically honor Henrietta Szold on the 100th anniversary of her birth. She was also the first real (non-allegorical) woman to be portrayed on an Israel bank note, the I£5 of 1973. The story behind the coin and note is one well worth telling.

Henrietta Szold (pronounced Sold) was a remarkable woman. She founded Hadassah, the Woman's Zionist Organization of America, which through work in Palestine and elsewhere saved thousands of Jewish and gentile lives. Even before Hadassah, Szold worked at charitable institutions and Zionist organizations. She believed that the establishment of a Jewish state was the only way to save world Jewry, and without her, there might never have been an Israel. Also, many more Jews would have died in the concentration camps of Nazi Europe.

Her dedication to education, charity, and the Jewish people was inherited from her father, Rabbi Szold. The year before Henrietta was born, her parents (both of German descent) left Hungary for Baltimore, Maryland, where the rabbi taught at the new Oheb Shalom congregation. Oheb Shalom means "Love of Peace" and was founded in 1853 by German immigrants as a moderate Reform synagogue. They dedicated their first building in 1858 on Hanover Street near Pratt, and today they still are a Reform congregation but located on Park Heights Avenue. Rabbi Szold worked for the liberation of black slaves. During the period in which a large number of Eastern European Jews came to America, he provided shelter and other forms of aid for them. He retired as rabbi in 1892 when the synagogue moved to Eutaw Place.

Education played a large part in Henrietta's life. She was taught by her father in her early years, and went to Western Female High School. As an adult, Henrietta attended lectures at Johns Hopkins University and Peabody Institute. After moving to New York with her mother in 1902, she studied at the Jewish Theological Seminary in upper Manhattan.



Immediately after graduating from high school, she became a correspondent for the New York-based *Jewish Messenger*. As a profession, however, Henrietta chose teaching. For 15 years, she taught a variety of academic courses at Mrs. Adam's School. Concurrently, she also taught at her father's synagogue. Around the turn of the century, Henrietta started teaching evening classes for immigrants. There she taught such subjects as English, democracy and vocational crafts. In

1888, the Jewish Publication Society was founded in Philadelphia. Henrietta was one of the founders. In addition, she became one of the organization's editors, writers, translators and secretaries. One of her major works was the American Jewish Year Book, which is still published annually.



The pressures of her work, combined with personal problems, caused Henrietta to have a physical breakdown in 1909. She took six months leave of absence and, with her mother, visited the Holy Land, which was then under Turkish control. In the Land of Israel, Henrietta saw the deplorable health conditions of Moslem natives and, to a lesser extent, Jewish residents. This gave her an idea to raise funds in order to set up medical facilities in that section of the Ottoman Empire. When Henrietta and her mother returned to America, Henrietta was offered the job of secretary for the Federation of American Zionists. The FAZ was in dire need of organization and with Henrietta as secretary, this problem soon disappeared. Being secretary of the FAZ meant long hours, little gratitude, painstaking attention to details and finding the source of problems and correcting them. Henrietta not only found this job exhausting--especially since she also worked for the JPS at the same time--but it also was too removed from her ideals.

Her ideal was a homeland for Jews in the Land of Israel. In 1907, Henrietta had joined a little group called the Hadassah (Hebrew for the Persian Queen Esther, the heroine of Purim) Study Circle. In 1912, she changed the organization to Hadassah, the Woman's Zionist Organization of America, with the dual principles of promoting Zionism and providing medical services in the Holy Land. With financial

assistance from Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Straus and the Chicago Jewish community, Hadassah sent nurses Rose Kaplan and Rachel Landy to the Holy Land where they battled trachoma, malaria and complications due to childbirth. They made house calls on foot or by donkey and opened a welfare station where they injected vaccine and taught hygiene.

In 1916, it was decided by FAZ to send a medical unit to the Land of Israel. The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee chose Hadassah to take care of the details. Henrietta volunteered to organize it. The unit, although organized that year, could not go to the Holy Land while it was under Ottoman rule. Therefore, it did not leave until 1918, after the British had conquered Jerusalem. With the support of U.S. President Wilson, the contingent of doctors, nurses and other needed personnel left the U.S. and arrived in Palestine. There they established a hospital in Tiberias, moved into the Jerusalem-based Rothschild building (which was donated by its namesake) and set up a nurse training school. Later, they opened up an infant welfare facility. The medical unit set up stations throughout the country to battle malaria and trachoma in schools, Arab villages and cities by encouraging sanitary conditions. Hadassah treated Moslems, Jews and Christians alike.

Jews were well received by individual Arabs under Turkish and early British rule because of this unbiased health service, combined with the fact that Jewish settlers had their agricultural experts help Arabs, their insistence that Arabs get equal pay and benefits as Jews in industry, the sharing of water from their irrigation ditches, and their stimulus to Arab business. Returning to Henrietta, 1916 was an important year for her. Her mother died and Judge Mack (an early Zionist leader) and a few of his associates presented Henrietta with a lifetime stipend. That year Henrietta also quit her omnibus job with JPS and became head of the FAZ education department. When FAZ and the Provisional Zionist Committee united to become the Zionist Organization of America, Henrietta became the secretary of its propaganda and education department. In 1920, she was sent to Palestine as a representative of the ZOA. While there, she became the director of the 1918 medical unit and also helped establish and run the nurse training school.

In 1926, Henrietta resigned from Hadassah and was named honorary president. The next year, she was elected one of the three members of

the Palestine Executive Committee of the World Zionist Organization, the first woman to be so honored. In 1930, Henrietta took over the social welfare department of the WZO. In this office, she established vocational schools and instituted a social service system which included the rehabilitation of juvenile delinquents.

After World War I, Hadassah was incorporated into the ZOA and its work in Palestine was taken over by Keren HaYesod. This infuriated many members of Hadassah. A conflict arose, and since Hadassah was more powerful than the ZOA, semi-autonomous status was given to Hadassah and it was given back full power over its finances and welfare work. This power was derived from the fact that Hadassah attracted many people because of its humanitarian and concrete achievements. On the other hand, ZOA was in the midst of member-ship decline and philosophical conflict between members. One example of humanitarian work is the Youth Aliya program. Originally called Freier's Jewish Youth Aid and organized in 1934 to send Jewish children from an orphanage in Nazi Berlin to Palestine, the program was taken over and expanded by Hadassah in 1935. At this time, Hadassah promised to raise \$30,000 for the program in the first year. It received \$125,000 and about 22,000 children were rescued from the Holocaust. The major problems overcome in the project involved acquiring immigration certificates and getting support from local communities and the British government. Youth Aliya still exists today. Hadassah supplies over 30% of its budget and the group cares for orphans and teaches immigrant children how to adapt to Western culture. Henrietta, although intending to retire from Zionist activities in 1932, changed her mind and headed Youth Aliya.

In 1934, construction started on the Mt. Scopus Hadassah hospital and it was completed in 1939. This complex was captured by the Trans-jordanian Arab Legion in Israel's War of Independence (1948). In that war, over 70 physicians and other Jews employed at the Mt. Scopus hospital were massacred by Arabs. Because Jordan refused to allow Hadassah to use this facility after the Armistice of 1949, a new hospital was built in Ein Karem (in southwest Jerusalem). Construction of this huge center started in 1952 and the dedication was in August, 1960. This hospital is the site of the famous Chagall windows portraying symbols of the twelve tribes of ancient Israel. The Israel government commemorated Hadassah Hospital with a medal for the dedication.

There are 59mm bronze and 35mm silver versions. The medal shows a nurse holding a baby with the Hadassah symbol above on the obverse, and the reverse shows the new building.



Later in 1960, Israel issued a ₪1 coin commemorating Szold on the centennial of her birth. The obverse portrays a lamb being held by a woman with the Hebrew inscription הנריטה סאלד • תשכא • הדסה • עליה הנוער which translates to Henrietta Szold, 1860-1960, Hadassah • Youth Aliya. The reverse shows a bird's eye view of the new Ein Karem hospital. This 32mm 14g copper-nickel coin was issued as the third coin of the Hanukka series, to be given as gifts on that holiday. It was not released into circulation.



In 1967, Israel recaptured the West Bank of the Jordan River, reuniting Jerusalem and rebuilding the Jewish sections. While Israel officially controlled Mt. Scopus from 1949-67, Jordan only allowed a small military presence to arrive by helicopter; no doctors or patients could use the facility. Hadassah rebuilt the hospital on Mt. Scopus and it opened on October 21, 1975. This hospital appears behind Szold's portrait on the front of the five pound note dated 1973 (year of authorization) but not printed or released until 1976. The front of this note is shown on the cover. The note's back shows the Lions Gate of Jerusalem. This note was replaced by a coin in 1978 and demonetized in 1980.



The new hospital is also shown on a medal issued by the Israel government in 1975 in both 59mm bronze and 45mm silver. The obverse shows the entrance to the new building with the Biblical verse from Haggai 11:9 גדול יהיה כבוד הבית הזה האחרון מהראשון Greater the Latter [House's] Glory than the Former. The reverse has Hadassah's emblem, a hexagram with Hadassah written over it in Hebrew. Below is an olive wreath and above is the motto ארוכת בת עמי Healing of the Daughter of My People (Jeremiah 8:22). The medal's legend in English and Hebrew is Hadassah University Hospital Mt. Scopus.

The Jewish American Hall of Fame honored Szold the next year. The 1976 two-inch trapezoid medal shows Szold writing in a book on the obverse and her standing with children saved from Nazi Germany through Youth Aliya on the reverse. The reverse also has the Hadassah

motto in Hebrew at bottom, and at top the quote Make mine eyes look towards the future. Gerta Ries Wiener designed the medal and 300 were minted in bronze, 180 in silver.



Henrietta saw neither the 1960 coin commemorating her nor the 1948 birth of Israel. She died at the age of 84, just a few months before World War II ended. Like Moses, she worked hard to get her people to the Promised Land, but only saw it on the horizon.

What's Your Sign?

Part One: Introduction to Collecting Zodiac Medals

by Simcha Kuritzky, NLG

The stars have fascinated mankind for millennia. They were seen as a window on the realm of gods. Monotheistic philosophers speculated they were holes in the sphere that separated the physical universe from Heaven. People have used them for navigation for thousands of years, and for just as long, have tried divining by them. People group stars into constellations on star maps, which allow them to be more readily recognized. The western zodiac was first invented by the Babylonians over 25 centuries ago. The Chinese developed their own set of constellations, as did the Hindus, American, and African peoples. We now know that many of these stars are actually distant galaxies, clusters, or nebulae. This series will discuss the western zodiac.

I had accumulated a dozen or so zodiac medals along with various other medals and tokens (what used to be called exnumia) when I was young and collected everything. As I specialized in felines, I started collecting only the Leo (lion) medals. I also collected amulets, which were very scarce until advances in minting technology made it profitable to mint a couple hundred pieces and sell them as jewelry. As I started collecting these, at \$25-\$75 apiece, I decided that, since so many of them are based on astrology, I should also include the more common zodiac pocket pieces. I thought it would take a year or two to complete a collection of these. I was very wrong. In the last three years, I have discovered that there are a huge number of different zodiac medals that no one has bothered to catalog or research.

The main lessons I learned were that designs are often imitated, creating families of similar designs. The same design may appear in multiple languages and sizes. The same piece may appear with minor design elements rearranged, proving that multiple sets of dies were used. There are also mules (mismatched obverse and reverse, dual reverse, and dual obverse medals). I also learned that one has to draw the line somewhere between numismatic medals and jewelry.

There are many facets to zodiac numismatics. Ancient and medieval coins honored the planets and the zodiac constellations. There are modern zodiac coins, medieval and Baroque jetons, medals, and commemorative coins which portray the zodiac plane as a strip of signs against the sky. There are commemorative medals that include either one zodiac sign or all twelve for good luck. There are pocket pieces, jewelry, and even tokens that portray one zodiac sign each, so people can collect all twelve or just their own personal sign.

In recent years, the eastern (or Chinese) zodiac has appeared frequently on coins and medals. The eastern zodiac has 12 signs which each rule one year. The western zodiac is composed of 12 signs which each rule a month. When the calendar was fixed by Julius Caesar, the zodiac sign tended to switch on day 21 or 22 of the month. However, there is widespread disagreement on which days the sign transfers. Hindus recognize the procession of the equinoxes, so the zodiac signs move forward about a day a millennium. The Jews assigned the zodiac signs to a unique lunar month, causing Pisces to be over-represented since theirs (Adar) is the month that gets doubled to keep the months aligned with the seasons (the Chinese also use a combined lunar-solar year, but adjust which month gets doubled).

Next time, I will discuss the relationship between planets and the zodiac, using ancient and medieval coins as a guide.



17th Century French jetons (counters) portraying zodiac strips

COIN SHOW DATES

All shows have free admission. Only Baltimore does not have free parking.

8 Mar. – Middle River Coin Club Show, Victory Villa Community Center, Martin Blvd & Compass Road, Baltimore, MD; 10-3.

22 Mar. – Annapolis Coin and Currency Show, Knights of Columbus Hall, 2590 Solomon's Island Road (Route 2), Edgewater, MD; 9-4:30.

15 Mar. – Baltimore Monthly Stamp & Coin Show, Crowne Plaza Hotel, 2004 Greenspring Drive, (I-83 exit 16) Timonium, MD; 10-4.

26-28 Mar. – Whitman Baltimore Coin & Currency Convention, Baltimore Convention Center, 1 West Pratt Street; Thu 2-6, Fri-Sat 10-6.

5 April – Baltimore Monthly Stamp & Coin Show, Crowne Plaza Hotel, 2004 Greenspring Drive, (I-83 exit 16) Timonium, MD; 10-4.

8-9 May – Frederick Coin & Currency Show, Grange Hall, 7th Alley.

7 June – Baltimore Area Numismatic Coalition Show, Holiday Inn, 1100 Cromwell Bridge Road, Towson, MD; 9-4.

11-13 June – Whitman Baltimore Coin & Currency Convention, Baltimore Convention Center, 1 West Pratt Street; Thu 2-6, Fri-Sat 10-6.

22 June – Baltimore Monthly Stamp & Coin Show, Crowne Plaza Hotel, 2004 Greenspring Drive, (I-83 exit 16) Timonium, MD; 10-4.

28 June – Annapolis Coin and Currency Show, Knights of Columbus Hall, 2590 Solomon's Island Road (Route 2), Edgewater, MD; 9-4:30.

5-6 Sept. Interstate Coin Show, Grand Venice Hotel, 431 Dual Highway, Hagerstown, MD. Sat. 10-5, Sun. 11-4.

20 Sept. – Annapolis Coin and Currency Show, Knights of Columbus Hall, 2590 Solomon's Island Road (Route 2), Annapolis, MD; 9-4:30.

27 Sept. – Baltimore Area Numismatic Coalition Show, Holiday Inn, 1100 Cromwell Bridge Road, Towson, MD; 9-4.

3-4 Oct. – CEO Coins, Currency & Treasurers Ocean City Show, Ocean City (Roland E. Powell) Convention Center, 4001 Ocean Highway & 40th Street, Ocean City, MD; Fri.-Sat. 10-6; Sun. 10-4.

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(* denotes charter)

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